

GLORY OF THE LORD

Easter Sermon at the Tabernacle
by Dr. Talmage.

TRIBUTE TO GOD'S LOVE

The Russian Salutation for the Day:
"Christ is risen," "He is risen indeed!"—Wonderful Sonnes.

BROOKLYN, April 3.—The Tabernacle was elaborately decorated with flowers today, and an unusually large audience assembled to hear Rev. Dr. Talmage's Easter morning sermon. The subject was, "The Resurrection," the text chosen being from I Corinthians xv, 20, "Now is Christ risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that sleep."

On this glorious Easter morning, amid the music and the flowers, I give you Christian salutations. This morning I salute you with the words of St. Paul, "Christ is risen, and he is risen indeed!" and I am answered by his friends in salutation, "He is risen indeed!" in some parts of England and Ireland, to this very day, there is the expectation that on Easter morning the sun dances in the heavens, and will say to us, "I have such a glad surprise for you, that I will give you a sign which shall show you the fact that the natural world seems to sympathize with the spiritual."

Well, Easter morning! Flowers! Flowers! All of them a-voice, all of them a-tongue, all of them full of speech today. I bend over one of the lilies and I hear it say, "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin, yet Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." I bend over a rose, and it seems to whisper, "I am the rose of Sharon. And then I stand and listen. From all sides there comes the chorus of flowers, saying, "If God so clothed the grass of the field, which today is and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?"

Flowers! Flowers! David then into the battle's fray. Flowers! Flowers! Strew them over the graves of the dead, sweet prophecy of the resurrection. Flowers! Flowers! Twist them into a garland for my Lord Jesus on Easter morning. "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be."

THE FLOWERS OF EASTER.
Oh, how bright and how beautiful the flowers, and how much they make me think of Christ and his religion that brightens our character, brightens society, brightens the church, brightens everything! You who go with gloomy countenance, you who are better than I am because of your ingratitude, you cannot cheat me. Pretty are you for a man that professes to be more than a conqueror. It is not religion that makes you gloomy. It is the lack of it. There is just as much religion in a wedding as in a burial, just as much religion in a smile as in a tear.

These glorious Christians we sometimes see are the people to whom I like to lend money, for I never see them again. The women came to the Saviour's tomb, and they dropped spices all around the tomb, and those spices were the seed that began to grow, and from them came all the flowers of this Easter morn. The two angels robed in white took hold of the stones at the Saviour's tomb, and they heaved it with such force down the hill that it crashed in the door of the world's sepulcher, and the stark and the dead could come forth.

I care not how labyrinthine the mazes, or how costly the sarcophagus, or how ever so beautifully preserved the family grounds, we must find all broken up by the Lord of the resurrection. They must come out. Father and mother—they must come out. Husband and wife—they must come out. Brother and sister—they must come out. Our darling children—they must come out. The eyes that we close with such trembling fingers must open again in the radiance of that morn. The arms we folded in that musty grave in an embrace of reunion. The voice that was hushed in our dwelling must be resumed. Oh, how long some of you seem to be waiting—waiting for the resurrection, waiting! And for these broken hearts today I make a soft, cool bandage out of Easter flowers.

THE FIRST FRUITS OF THEM THAT SLEEP.
My friends, I find in the risen Christ a prophecy of our own resurrection, my last setting forth the idea that as Christ has risen so the people will rise. He—the first fruit of the resurrection harvest. He—"the first fruits of them that sleep." Define it through this morning I will walk through all the cemeteries of the dead, through all the country graveyards, where your loved ones are buried, and I will pluck off some flowers, and I will drop a sweet promise of the gospel—a seed of hope, a life of joy on every tomb—"His child's tomb, the husband's tomb, the wife's tomb, the father's grave, the mother's grave, and while we celebrate the resurrection of Christ we will at the same time celebrate the resurrection of all the good." "Christ the first fruits of them that sleep."

If I should come to you this morning and ask you for the signs of the great conquerors of the world, you would say Alexander, Caesar, Philip, Napoleon I. All my friends, you have forgotten to mention the name of a greater conqueror than all of those—a cruel, a black, a conqueror. He who rules on a globe whose armies Waterloo and Atlanta and Chancellorsville have crushed the hearts of nations. It is the conqueror Death.

He carries a black flag, and he takes no prisoners. He has a trench across the hemisphere and fills it with the carcasses of nations. Every stone would this

world have been depopulated had not God kept making new generations. Fifty times the world would have swung lifeless through the air—no man on the mountain, no man on the sea, an abandoned ship plowing through immensity. Again and again he has done this work with all generations. He is a monarch as well as a conqueror. His palace is a splendor, his foundation the falling towers of a world. Blessed be God, in the light of this Easter morning I see the prophecy that his scepter shall be broken and his palace shall be demolished. The hour is coming when all who are in their graves shall come forth. Christ risen, we shall rise. Jesus "the first fruits of them that sleep." Now, around this doctrine of the resurrection there are a great many mysteries.

MYSTERY OF THE RESURRECTION.
You come to me this morning and say, "If the bodies of the dead are to be raised, how is this and how is that?" And you ask me thousand questions I am incapable to answer, but there are a great many things you believe that you are not able to explain. You would be a very foolish man to say, "I won't believe anything I can't understand."

Why, putting down one kind of flower seed, comes there up this flower of this color? Why, putting down another flower seed, comes there up a flower of this color? One flower white, another flower yellow, another flower crimson. Why the difference when the seeds look to be very much alike—are very much alike? Explain these things. Explain that what on the finger. Explain why the oak leaf is different from the leaf of the hickory. Tell me how the Lord Almighty can turn the chariot of his omnipotence on a rose leaf. You ask me questions about the resurrection I cannot answer. I will ask you a thousand questions about everyday life you cannot answer.

I find my strength in this passage, "All who are in their graves shall come forth." I do not pretend to make the explanation. You can go on and say, "Suppose a returned missionary dies in Brooklyn. When he was in China, his foot was amputated. He lived years after in England, and there he had an arm amputated. He is buried today in Greenwood. In the resurrection will the foot come from China, will the arm come from England, and will the different parts of the body be reconstructed in the resurrection? How is that possible?"

You say that "the human body changes every seven years, and by 70 years of age a man has had 10 bodies. In the resurrection which will come up? You say, 'A man will die and his body crumble into dust and that dust be taken up into the life of the vegetable. An animal may eat the vegetable; man eat the animal. In the resurrection that body, distributed in so many directions, how shall it be gathered up?' Have you any more questions of this style to ask? Come on and ask them. I do not pretend to answer them. I fall back upon the announcement of God's word, "All who are in their graves shall come forth."

WHEN THE PRINCEPT SHALL SOUND.
You have noticed, I suppose, in reading the story of the resurrection that almost every account of the Bible gives the idea that the characteristic of that day will be a great sound. I do not know that it will be very loud, but I know it will be very penetrating. In the mausoleum, where silence has reigned a thousand years, that voice must penetrate. In the coral cave of the deep that voice must penetrate.

Millions of spirits will come through the gates of eternity, and they will come to the tomb of the earth, and they will cry, "Give us back our bodies. We gave them to you in corruption; surrender them now in incorruption." Hundreds of spirits hovering about the crags of Gettysburg, for there the bodies are buried. A hundred thousand spirits coming to Greenwood, for there the bodies are buried, waiting for the reunion of body and soul.

All along the sea route from New York to Liverpool at every few miles where a steamer went down departed spirits coming back hovering over the wave. There is where the City of Boston perished. Found at last. There is where the President perished. Steamer found at last. There is where the Central America went down. Spirits hovering—hundreds of spirits hovering, waiting for the reunion of body and soul. Out on the prairie a spirit alights. There is where a traveler died in the snow. Crash! goes Westminster Abbey, and the poets and orators come forth; wonderful mingling of good and bad. Crash! go the pyramids of Egypt, and the monarchs come forth.

Who can sketch the scene? I suppose that one moment before that general rising there will be an entire silence save as you hear the grinding of a wheel or a clatter of the hoofs of a procession passing in the cemetery. Silence in all the caves of the earth. Silence on the side of the mountain. Silence down in the valleys and far out into the sea. Silence.

But in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, as the archangel's trumpet comes pealing, rolling, crashing across mountain and ocean, the earth will give one terrific shudder, and the graves of the dead will heave like the waves of the sea, and Orestes and Schastopol and Chancellorsville will stalk forth in the lurid air, and the drowned will come up and wring out their wet locks above the billow, and all the land and all the sea become one morning mass of life—all faces, all ages, all conditions, gazing in one direction and upon one throne—the throne of resurrection. "All who are in their graves shall come forth."

THE GLORIOUS ROSE.

"But," you say, "if this doctrine of the resurrection is true as predicated by this Easter morning, Christ, the first fruits of them that sleep, Christ rising a promise and a prophecy of the rising of all his people, can you tell us something about the resurrected body?" I can. There are no mistakes about that, but I shall tell you three or four things in regard to the resurrected body that are beyond guessing and beyond mistake.

In the first place, I remark, in regard to your resurrected body, it will be a glorious body. The body we have now is a mere shadow of what it will be. It is a body of sin and sorrow, and of death. Take the most exquisite statue that was ever made by an artist and chip it here and chip it there with a chisel and hammer and bruise it here and there and then stand it out in the storms of a hundred years, and the beauty would be gone.

Well, the human body has been chipped and battered and bruised and damaged with the storms of thousands of years—one physical object or even generations coming down from generation to generation, we inheriting the infirmities of past generations, but in the morning of the resurrection the body will be adorned and beautified according to the original model. And there is no such difference between a gymnast and an emaciated wretch in a lametta as there will be a difference between our bodies as they are now and our resurrected forms.

There you will see the perfect eye after the waters of death have washed out the stains of tears and dust. There you will see the perfect hand after the knots of toil have been untied from the knuckles. There you will see the form erect and elastic after the burdens have gone off the shoulder—the very life of God in the body.

In this world the most impressive thing, the most expressive thing, is the human face, but that face is veiled with the griefs of a thousand years, but in the resurrection more that veil will be taken away from the face, and the noon-day sun is dail and dim and stupid compared with the outshining glories of the countenance of the saved. When those faces of the righteous, those resurrected faces, turn toward the gate or look up toward the throne, it will be like the dawning of a new morning on the bosom of everlasting day! Oh, glorious resurrected body!

THE IMMORTAL BODY.
But I remark also, in regard to that body which you are to get in the resurrection, it will be an immortal body. These bodies are wasting away. Somebody has said as soon as we begin to live we begin to die. Unless we keep putting the fuel into the furnace the furnace dies out. The blood vessels are equal taking the breadstuffs to all parts of the system. We must be reconstructed hour by hour, day by day. Sickness and death are all the time trying to get their prey under the tentment, or to push us off the embankment of the grave; but, blessed be God, in the resurrection we will get a body immortal.

No malaria in the air, no cough, no neuralgic twinge, no rheumatic pang, no fluttering of the heart, no shortness of breath, no emulsion, no dyspepsia, no hospital, no invalid's chair, no spectacles to improve the dim vision, but health, immortal health! O ye who have aches and pains indescribable this morning—O ye who are never well—O ye who are lacerated with physical distresses, let me tell you of the resurrected body, free from all disease. Immortal! Immortal!

I will go further and say, in regard to that body which you are to get in the resurrection, it will be a powerful body. We walk now eight or ten miles, and we are fatigued; we lift a few hundred pounds, and we are exhausted; unarmed, we meet a wild beast, and we must run or fly or climb or dodge because we are incompetent to meet it; we toil eight or ten hours vigorously, and then we are weary, but in the resurrection we are to have a body that never gets tired. Is it not a glorious thought?

NO IDLENESS IN HEAVEN.
Plenty of occupation in heaven. I suppose Broadway, New York, in the busiest season of the year at noonday is not so busy as heaven is all the time. Grand projects of mercy for other worlds. Victories to be celebrated. The downfall of despots on earth to be announced. Great songs to be learned and sung. Great expeditions on which God shall send forth his children. Plenty to do, but no fatigue. If you are seated under the trees of life, it will not be to rest, but to talk over with some old comrade old times—the battles where you fought shoulder to shoulder.

Sometimes in this world we feel we would like to have such a body as that. There is so much work to be done for Christ, there are so many tears to be wiped away, there are so many burdens to lift, there is so much to be achieved for Christ, we sometimes wish that from the first of January to the last of December we could toil on without stopping to sleep, or take any recreation, or to rest, or even to take food—that we could, toll right on without stopping a moment in our work of commanding Christ and heaven to all the people. But we all get tired.

It is characteristic of the human body in this condition. We must get tired. Is it not a glorious thought that after awhile we are going to have a body that will never get weary? Oh, glorious resurrection day. Gladly will I fling aside this poor body of sin and fling it into the tomb, if at my bidding I shall have a body that never wears out. That was a splendid resurrection hymn that was sung at my father's burial:

So Jesus slept, God's dying Son,
Passed through the grave and blessed the bed,
Rise here, blest saint, till from his throne
The morning breaks to pierce the shade.

O blessed resurrection! Speak out, sweet flowers, beautiful flowers, while you tell of a risen Christ and tell of the righteous who shall rise. May God fill you this morning with anticipation!

A HAPPY REUNION.

I heard of a father and son who among others were shipwrecked at sea. The father and the son climbed into the rigging. The father held on, but the son after awhile lost his hold in the rigging and was dashed down. The father supposed he had gone hopelessly under the wave. The next day the father was brought ashore from the rigging in an exhausted state and laid in a bed in a fisherman's hut, and after many hours had passed he came to consciousness and saw lying beside him on the same bed his boy.

Oh, my friends, what a glorious thing it will be when we wake up at last to find our loved ones beside us! Coming up from the same plot in the graveyard, coming up in the same morning light—the father and son alive, forever, all the loved ones alive forever, nevermore to lose, nevermore to part, nevermore to die. May the God of peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant make you perfect in every good work, to do the will and live in the glorious hope of

the morning transport our thoughts to the grander assemblage before the throne.

This august assemblage is nothing compared with St. Peter's one hundred and forty and four thousand, and the "great multitude that no man can number," some of our best friends among them, we after awhile to join the multitude. Blessed anticipation!

My soul anticipates the day,
Would stretch her wings and soar away
To see the King, the King to see
And bow, the chief of sinners, there.

Coming to Grand Rapids.

FR. WAYER, Ind., April 1.—During the last few weeks considerable enthusiasm has been aroused in this city among society and business people over the study of the German language. This

was brought about by Prof. L. B. Dodge of Syracuse, N. Y., and his rapid system for acquiring a practical knowledge of the language. The class was composed of 123 ladies and gentlemen, all of whom took regular leave of their teacher last evening. Prof. Dodge has gone to Grand Rapids where he will organize similar classes during the coming week.

NELSON, MATTER & CO.'S great third annual furniture sale commences April 3. See advertisement in another column.

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